**LANGUAGE USAGE SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT**

The subject of a sentence must always agree with its verb. This means that the subject and verb must both be either singular or plural. Subject-Verb Agreement questions address whether there is a match between single and plural subjects and verbs.

Consider the following examples:

**Why doesn’t your grandfather and grandmother like to fish? Incorrect.**

Whenever a subject contains two nouns joined by the word and, this makes the subject plural. Since the subject of the sentence is now plural, the sentence needs a plural verb:

**Why don’t your grandfather and grandmother like to fish? Correct.**

The singular verb doesn’t fit from the sentence above has been replaced with the plural verb don’t like. The subject and the verb are both in plural form, so they now agree.

**Another example:**

**She is choosing between her top two colleges last week. Incorrect.**

This sentence also contains the present tense verb phrase is choosing. However, the phrase last week indicates that the action of the sentence took place in the past. This sentence, as written, is incorrect.

**Last example:**

**She chose between her top two colleges last week. Correct.**

This sentence reads that she chose between her top two college last week to show clearly that the action took place in the past.

**Her niece was never in the mood to play hopscotch. Incorrect.**

Here niece was never in the mood to play hopscotch. Correct.

The subject of this sentence, her niece, is singular. The verb was is also singular. This sentence has subject-verb agreement because the subject and verb are both singular.

**Language Usage Subject-Verb Agreement**

**UNDERSTANDING SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT**

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**Verb Tenses**

**Understanding Simple Tenses**

The most common verb tenses are past, present, and future. If the action of the sentence is taking place in the past, the verbs showing that action should be in the past tense. If the action of the sentence is taking place in the present, the verbs showing that action should be in the present tense, and so on.

**Verb Tenses**

**Understanding Progressive Tenses**

Progressive tenses are the present progressive, past progressive, and future progressive. They show that an action is in progress. These tenses are also sometimes called continuous tenses.

**Present progressive** is formed: Subject + am / is / are + ing verb + object. My teacher is assigning us a mountain of homework.

**Past progressive** is formed: Subject + was / were + ing verb + object. The rabbit was running for hours.

**Future progressive** is formed: Subject + will be + ing verb + object. I will be sleeping when you get back.
UNDERSTANDING PERFECT TENSES

Perfect tenses are the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.

Present perfect tense shows action that was recently completed or was completed at an indefinite time in the past.

Future perfect tense shows an action that will happen before another action happens.

Past perfect tense shows an action that was completed directly before another action was completed.

Present perfect tense is formed: Subject + has / have + past participle verb + object. My teacher has assigned a mountain of homework.

Past perfect tense is formed: Subject + had + past participle verb + object. The rabbit had run for hours until it found shelter.

Future perfect tense is formed: Subject + will have + past participle verb + object. I will have fallen asleep by the time you get back.

Future perfect progressive is formed: Subject + will have been + -ing verb + object. I will have been sleeping for hours by the time you get home.

PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES

Future perfect progressive is formed: Subject + will have been + -ing verb + object. I will have been sleeping for hours by the time you get home.